

Message Text

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44

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SAM-01 AID-05 TRSE-00 OMB-01 /057 W

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FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0000 IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN

AMCONGEN JOHANNESBURG

UNCLAS PRETORIA 2011

SUBJ: MEDIA REACTION : KISSINGER AFRICA VISIT

1. LEDD ITEM ON MAY 1 MORNING NEWS PROGRAM ON SA GOVT-OPERATED SABC RADIO WAS REPORT THAT PRESIDENT FORD HAS INDICATED THAT IF HE IS RETURNED TO OFFICE IN NOVEMBER, HIS ADMINISTRATION "MIGHT CONSIDER ESTABLISHING A NAVAL PRESENCE IN SOUTH AFRICA." ACCORDING TO NEWS PROGRAM, STATEMENT WAS MADE IN LUBBOCK, TEXAS DURING QUESTION-AND-ANSWER SESSION WITH MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES. PRESIDENT FORD ALSO REPORTED TO HAVE SAID THAT IF CONGRESS APPROPRIATES MONEY FOR DIEGO GARCIA HE WOULD "TAKE ANOTHER LOOK" AT SOUTH AFRICA NAVAL BASES, THOUGH HE THOUGHT DIEGO GARCIA WAS A BETTER BASE THAN ANYTHING SOUTH AFRICA HAS.

(FYI - SABC RADIO INDICATES ABOVE ITEM CARRIED BY "ALL NEWS AGENCIES". BUT TO DATE NEWSPAPERS DID NOT PICK IT UP.)

2. JOHANNESBURG LIBERAL DAILY, THE STAR OF APRIL 30, CARRIED ARTICLE ON EDITORIAL PAGE ENTITLED "WAWA" -- THAT'S THE VERDICT ON DR. K." CREDITED TO THE PAPER'S OWN NEWS BUREAU, AS "BACKGROUND TO THE NEWS". ARTICLE'S THRUST IN THAT ACRONYM FOR "WEST AFRICA WINS AGAIN" IS APPLICABLE TO SECRETARY'S TRIP, CITING FOLLOWING SNARL-UPS:

"AN OFFER OF AID TO ZAMBIA, WHICH WAS TO HAVE BEEN A CENTERPIECE OF DR. KISSINGER'S LUSAKA SPEECH ON SOUTHERN AFRICA, RUNNING INTO UNCLASSIFIED

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BUREAUCRATIC OPPOSITION IN WASHINGTON AND IN THE END BEING LEFT

OUT OF HIS SPEECH ALTOGETHER."

"AN OFFER OF AID TO MOZAMBIQUE, INTENDED AS THE AMERICAN RIPOSTE TO THE RUSSIAN INVESTMENT OF 300 MILLION DOLLARS IN WEAPONRY FOR ITS CLIENTS IN ANGOLA, BEING REDUCED BY OFFICIAL WASHINGTON TO A TRIFLING 12,500,000 DOLLARS."

"THE LUSAKA SPEECH, WHICH HAD BEEN OVER-ADVERTISED IN ADVANCE, ANGERED WHITES OF SOUTHERN AFRICA AND FALLING FAR SHORT OF BLACK AFRICA'S HOPES. IN DAR-ES-SALAAM IT WAS CRITICISED AS SO INADEQUATE AS TO NEGATE THE PURPOSE OF THE TRIP."

"GHANA, A LATE SUBSTITUTE FOR NIGERIA ON THE ITINERARY, DROPPING ITS INVITATION TO DR. KISSINGER AT THE LAST MOMENT, FORCING HIM TO REMAIN AN EXTRA DAY IN KINSHASA, ZAIRE, WHERE HE CONTRACTED GASTROENTERITIS."

"THE EXCESSIVE ZEAL WHICH THE STATE DEPT AND THE US INFORMATION AGENCY TRIED TO MANIPULATE THE NEWS COVERAGE OF DR. KISSINGER'S VISIT GOING WRONG FROM THE START WHEN PRESS KITS DISTRIBUTE HERE TURNED OUT TO HAVE MIXED UP PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE AFRICAN HEADS OF STATE."

ARTICLE SAYS ONLY "RAY OF LIGHT" WAS "STATE DEPARTMENT'S ANTI' WHITE FACTION'S" DELIGHT AT ATTACKS ON DR. KISSINGER BY IAN SMITH AND S.A. PARLIAMENTARIAN, VAUSE RAW. ARTICLE ENDED BY SAYING "ONE OBSERVER REMARKED THAT IN THE END MR. SMITH AND MR. RAW MIGHT HAVE RESCUED DR. KISSINGER'S TRIP BECAUSE THE AMERICANS WOULD BE ABLE TO EMPHASIZE TO WHITES IN AFRICA THAT KISSINGER HAD ANGERED THE BLACKS, AND TO BLACKS THEY WOULD BE ABLE TO CLAIM THAT THEY HAD ANGERED THE WHITES."

3. JOHANNESBURG'S PRO'GOVT AFRIKAANS TRANSVAALER OF MAY 1 EDITORIALIZED THAT THERE IS "WELCOME REACTION IN THE U.S. AGAINST DR. KISSINGER'S AFRICA POLICY DECLARATION". EDITORIAL NOTES CONCERN OF CERTAIN "INFLUENTIAL PEOPLE, CITING RONALD REAGON, JOHN SPARKMAN AND MILTON FRIEDMAN, ABOUT COMMUNIST MINORITY GOVERNMENT IN ANGOLA AND FACT THAT "DR. K. HAS ALIENATED THE WHITES IN SOUTHERN AFRICA", ENDING BY PREDICTING THAT "DR. K'S OPPORTUNISM WILL HAVE AN IMPACT IN CERTAIN CIRCLES AND CAUSE UNCLASSIFIED

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AMERICANS TO THINK AGAIN."

ITEM

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